

GOOD EVENING. TONIGHT MARKS MY 11TH
INAUGURAL ADDRESS. THIS YEAR, I WOULD LIKE TO START MY
ADDRESS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY WITH AN ANECDOTE ABOUT
LIFE IN PEABODY.

IT WAS A CLEAR AND BALMY SUMMER EVENING. A
PERFECT NIGHT FOR AN OUTDOOR CONCERT. MY WIFE,
JACKIE, AND I ARRIVED EARLY, AS WE USUALLY DO, AND LAID
OUT OUR BLANKETS AND CHAIRS.

I THEN TOOK A FEW MOMENTS AND BEGAN TO SURVEY
THE WONDERFUL SCENE THAT WAS UNFOLDING BEFORE ME.
AS I LOOKED TO THE LEFT, I SAW A GROUP OF SENIOR CITIZENS

WHO HAD COME OVER FROM THE TANNERY APARTMENT COMPLEX. THEY LOOKED HAPPY AND RELAXED AND SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING THE SURROUNDINGS AS MUCH AS I. I RECOGNIZED MANY OF THE FACES - SOME OF WHOM HAD TOILED IN THE FACTORIES FOR WHICH THE LEATHER CITY COMMON WAS NAMED.

I THEN LOOKED TO MY RIGHT AND SAW A GROUP OF YOUNG CHILDREN - A FEW OF MY OWN GRANDCHILDREN INCLUDED - RUNNING IN CIRCLES AROUND ONE OF THE SMALL TREES.

I THEN SAW A YOUNG COUPLE WHO HAD RECENTLY BUILT
A NEW HOME IN THE CITY. NEXT TO THEM WERE TWO PEOPLE
SAYING HELLO, SHAKING HANDS AND MAKING THOSE
GESTURES THAT TELL YOU THAT THEY HAD NOT SEEN EACH
OTHER IN A WHILE.

AS I LOOKED OVER NEAR THE STAGE AREA, I SAW A GROUP
OF CITY EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME - SELLING
SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS AT THE CONCESSION STAND.

AS I LOOKED STRAIGHT OUT, THE CROWD WAS BEGINNING
TO SETTLE IN BEHIND ME, I SAW FAMILIES - SOME BEING
SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION AND SOME RECENT

IMMIGRANTS TO THIS COUNTRY. AS THE CONCERT BEGAN, I WAS STRUCK BY THE EXCITEMENT AND ENTHUSIASM THAT PERMEATED FROM THE CROWD. WITHOUT EXAGGERATION, EVERYONE SEEMED TO BE HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME.

REVEREND CLERGY, MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF PEABODY. THAT SUMMER CONCERT AND THE DIVERSE MAKEUP OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED IS WHAT PEABODY IS ALL ABOUT.

♦ IT'S ABOUT PUTTING THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY FIRST AND MAKING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

BETTER FOR ALL THOSE WHOM YOU SERVE – CHILDREN,
ADULTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS ALIKE.

◆ IT'S ABOUT MAKING THE TOUGH DECISIONS, PROVIDING
LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIAL STABILITY TO YOUR
COMMUNITY SO THAT CITIZENS CAN TAKE THE TIME TO
ENJOY TODAY WHILE FEELING SECURE ABOUT
TOMORROW.

◆ IT'S ABOUT CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT OF SAFETY,
HAPPINESS AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR ALL. THAT IS
WHAT EFFECTIVE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IS ALL
ABOUT.

TONIGHT I WILL TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST TERM AND OUR EXCITING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. BUT IN THE END, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THAT OUR GOAL IS ALWAYS TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN OUR CITY.

TONIGHT MARKS ANOTHER TERM IN OFFICE FOR SOME, AND A NEW BEGINNING FOR OTHERS. I WISH TO EXTEND MY HAND IN FRIENDSHIP; I ASK FOR BOTH YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION. LET US WORK TOGETHER TO ELEVATE OUR COMMUNITY TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR JERRY RIZZO WHO PROVIDED OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OVER THE PAST YEAR AS YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE ALSO IN ORDER FOR YOUR NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WILLIAM TOOMEY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE MANY COMPLEX ISSUES WE WILL BE FACING.

THIS SHOULD BE AN EXCITING TIME FOR ALL OF US; WE WILL BE CLOSING THE BOOK ON THE 20TH CENTURY AND

PREPARING OUR COMMUNITY FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION
INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

LET'S USE THIS HISTORIC EVENT AS A REMINDER TO KEEP
IN PLACE THOSE THINGS THAT WORK WELL AND TO CORRECT
WHAT DOES NOT WORK. AS WE PREPARE TO MOVE AHEAD, I
THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO REFLECT ON THE PAST, REVIEW
THE PRESENT AND SET OUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE.

TWO YEARS AGO AT THIS VERY PODIUM, I OUTLINED
GOALS FOR OUR CITY.

LET ME BRIEFLY TOUCH ON JUST A FEW. I SPOKE ABOUT
KEEPING OUR CITY FINANCIALLY SOUND, ABOUT THE

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT, AND ABOUT A NEW PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITY. WE TALKED ABOUT LAND ASSEMBLY AND DESIGN OF A NEW GOLF COURSE. WE DISCUSSED RENEGOTIATING A NEW CONTRACT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SKATING RINK. WE EXPLAINED THE NEED TO EXTEND UTILITIES ON JUBILEE DRIVE FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND HELP FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS WITH SOFT SECOND LOANS, TO FULFILL THEIR DREAM OF OWNING THEIR OWN HOME.

WE SAW THE NEED TO STUDY OUR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AS WELL AS THE FEASIBILITY OF

RESTORING MBTA SERVICES. WE EXPLAINED THE NEED TO TAKE REGIONALIZATION MORE SERIOUSLY AND TO ADDRESS IT MORE VIGOROUSLY. WE PLEDGE \$5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM. WE ALSO SAID THAT CIVILIAN DISPATCHERS WERE NECESSARY TO FREE UP POLICE OFFICERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POLICE PROTECTION TO NEIGHBORHOODS. WE ALSO COMMITTED TO INCREASING AND IMPROVING CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALL OF THESE GOALS HAVE BEEN REACHED, AND THEY HAVE HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR CITY.

I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO
WORKED TO MAKE OUR GOALS A REALITY. ALTHOUGH MUCH
HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE.
IMPROVEMENT WILL ONLY COME BY WORKING TOGETHER. IT
WILL REQUIRE THE WILL TO PROVIDE TRUE LEADERSHIP, THE
ABILITY TO DEFINE THE ISSUES AND THE COURAGE TO MAKE
DECISIONS BASED ON SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION. IF WE
SUBMIT TO POLITICAL PRESSURE, OR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY
OR REACT TO POLLS AS THE VEHICLES TO MAKING DECISIONS,
THEN WE HAVE BROKEN THE TRUST THAT OUR CONSTITUENTS
HAVE PLACED IN US.

OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO STEADILY
IMPROVE OUR FINANCES BRINGING STABILITY AND STRENGTH
TO OUR COMMUNITY. THIS PAST JULY, MOODY'S INVESTORS
SERVICE, WHICH IS A PRESTIGIOUS RATING AGENCY FOR
RATING MUNICIPAL BONDS, REAFFIRMED PEABODY'S BOND
RATING AT A "AA1". IN MOODY'S REPORT TO INVESTORS, THEY
STATED AND I QUOTE; "A RATING OF AA1 HAS BEEN ASSIGNED
TO PEABODY'S GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT. THE MAIN
FACTORS IN THE RATING ARE PEABODY'S LARGE AND DIVERSE
ECONOMIC BASE AND THE CITY'S WELL-MANAGED FINANCES".
I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT PEABODY RANKS IN THE TOP 10

IN MASSACHUSETTS WITH REGARDS TO BOND RATINGS, WHILE
HAVING ONE OF THE LOWEST TAX BURDENS IN
MASSACHUSETTS. I WANT TO THANK OUR EXCELLENT
FINANCIAL TEAM LED BY PATTY SCHAFER FOR THE
OUTSTANDING WORK THEY HAVE DONE.

THERE ARE BOUND TO BE ECONOMIC CHANGES IN THE
FUTURE AND IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT THE CITY
FROM GETTING INTO FINANCIAL TROUBLE.

THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THE AREAS OF
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE
WHEELS HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION FOR THE NEXT TWO

YEARS. IN THE PAST OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'S REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM, HAS LOANED \$5.8 MILLION TO BUSINESSES WHO HAVE LEVERAGED \$46.7 MILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT. THEY HAVE CREATED OVER 700 JOBS AND RETAINED ANOTHER 300. THIS HAS HELPED TO KEEP OUR UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 3%. THIS PAST YEAR, WE HAVE COMPLETED PHASE THREE OF UTILITY INSTALLATIONS ON JUBILEE DRIVE TO SERVE FISHERY PRODUCTS AND THE PROPERTY ADJACENT TO IT. LAST WEEK WE SIGNED LAND AGREEMENTS FOR THE MAINSTAY HOTEL WHICH WILL BE CONSTRUCTED ON JUBILEE DRIVE. WE WILL ALSO SEE THE

COMPLETION OF TWO HOTELS ON ROUTE ONE - (THE HAMPTON INN AND THE HOMEWOOD SUITES.) BY THE END OF 1998, WE WILL HAVE ADDED THREE NEW HOTELS, THAT, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER PLANNED PROJECTS, WILL HELP STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMIC BASE.

LAST YEAR WE COMPLETED OUR 2005 PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION. A NUMBER OF THE PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. IN 1998 WE WILL SEE THE UPGRADING OF UPPER MAIN STREET AND HOWLEY STREET WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW STOP & SHOP AND THE REHABILITATION OF STAHL FINISH AND PYBURN

BUILDINGS. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS WILL CLEAN UP AND IMPROVE THE ENTIRE BASIN AREA AND IT WILL BE THE START OF THE RIVER WALK IN THAT AREA.

EARLY THIS PAST YEAR WE SELECTED CORNISH, SILVA AND MUNGEAM, A NATIONALLY KNOWN GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM, TO DESIGN THE NEW PEABODY GOLF COURSE. IN SEPTEMBER WE SIGNED A LEASE FOR LAND WITH EASTMAN GELATINE AND THE BONDING WAS AUTHORIZED. IN 1998 WE WILL SEE THE COMPLETION OF DESIGN AND PERMITTING AS WELL AS THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.

THIS YEAR WE WILL SEE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE INTERSECTION OF LYNN AND COUNTY STREETS, LAKE AND LOWELL STREETS AND LOWELL AND PROSPECT STREETS AS WELL AS THE WILSON SQUARE PROJECT WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE TRAFFIC SITUATION IN THOSE AREAS.

THIS YEAR A NEW MASTER PLAN FOR IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION IN THE CITY WILL BE DEVELOPED BY THE ENGINEERING FIRM OF VANESSE, HAGEN & BRESLIN. THE PLAN KNOWN AS THE TRANSPORTATION 2020 PLAN WILL LOOK AT CONGESTION AND SAFETY ISSUES THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND PROVIDE US WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR

IMPROVEMENTS ALONG WITH IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTATION. THIS PAST YEAR, ALONG WITH SIX OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS, I HAD THE HONOR OF BEING ELECTED TO THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALLOCATING \$40 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS TO CITIES AND TOWNS. THAT, COUPLED WITH MY APPOINTMENT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MBTA, WILL PROVIDE PEABODY WITH A VOICE ON TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN THE REGION WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY RESULT IN IMPROVEMENTS.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, MANY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. NOT ONLY HAVE WE MET THE MANDATES OF THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT, WE HAVE PREPARED OUR STUDENTS FOR THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD. AS WE START OUR NEW TERM OF OFFICE, LET ME BE CLEAR ABOUT ONE THING; THIS ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO QUALITY EDUCATION AS WELL AS MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO INSURE IT, HOWEVER THERE HAS TO BE ASSURANCE OF WELL-DEVELOPED PLANS AND PHASED-IN PROGRAMS THAT ARE MANAGEABLE AND MAKE SENSE. A HELTER SKELTER PROCESS AND UNREASONABLE

EXPECTATIONS WILL LEAD TO FAILURE. ACCOMPLISHING ALL OUR GOALS WILL REQUIRE WORKING TOGETHER AND A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO SOLUTIONS. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THERE SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. I BELIEVE SUCH CRITICISM IS HEALTHY AND IMPORTANT TO HELP CORRECT POTENTIAL MISTAKES OR EVEN DEVELOP BETTER IDEAS. A CONSTANT NEGATIVE APPROACH, ACCENTUATING ALL THAT IS WRONG IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN THE ATTAINMENT OF VIABLE SOLUTIONS.

AT MY LAST INAUGURAL, I PLEDGED \$5 MILLION FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS. THE YEAR BEFORE THAT, I PLEDGED

\$2 MILLION. TONIGHT I WANT TO SEND OUT A CLEAR MESSAGE SO THERE WILL BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING -TO PHASE ONE OF OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WE PLEDGE THE SUM OF \$20 MILLION DOLLARS. ONCE I AM ASSURED THAT THE PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY, IN A RESPONSIBLE FASHION, AND UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL, I WILL, AT THAT TIME, SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO CONTINUE THE PLAN AS OUTLINED BY NESDEC. THE FUNDING MECHANISM WILL BE DEVELOPED TO TIME THE ISSUANCE OF NEW BORROWING WITH MATURING DEBT SO AS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT ON OUR CITIZENS.

UNDER THE EDUCATION REFORM ACT THERE IS A FORMULA FOR EXPEDITURES FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT FUNDING AND EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES. THERE ARE TWO THRESHOLDS - ONE IS, NET MINIMUM SPENDING, AND THE SECOND IS, THE NET FOUNDATION BUDGET WHICH ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE TO REACH BY THE YEAR 2000. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR WE HAVE SURPASSED BOTH THRESHOLDS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE HAVE EXCEEDED THE FOUNDATION LEVEL BY 1.6 MILLION AND THAT AMOUNT COULD INCREASE BEFORE THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, I MADE TWO TRIPS TO BALTIMORE WITH MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW AN EXCITING CONCEPT KNOWN AS SENIOR CAMPUS LIVING. WE WILL BE SUBMITTING A PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE TO THE CITY COUNCIL SHORTLY WHICH WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR A SIMILAR PROGRAM. SENIOR CAMPUS LIVING IS AMERICA'S LEADER IN DEVELOPING AND MANAGING FULL SERVICE RETIREMENT CAMPUSES. THEY BUILD AND OPERATE SELF-CONTAINED CAMPUS STYLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES THAT MEET THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT NEEDS OF SENIORS, INDEPENDENCE, SECURITY AND HEALTH CARE. THE

INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY WOULD EXCEED \$200 MILLION DOLLARS AND CREATE 1000 NEW JOBS. IT COULD BE THE LARGEST SINGLE INVESTMENT EVER MADE IN OUR CITY.

IN REGARDS TO THE ONGOING CONCERNS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THE FOLLOWING INITIAL STEPS WILL BE TAKEN:

1. BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF OUR INDEPENDENT AUDITING FIRM, POWERS AND SULLIVAN WHO DID AN EVALUATION OF THE INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS FOR POLICE EXTRA-DUTY DETAILS, THE CITY WILL BE ASSUMING THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICE DETAILS. THE INTENT IS TO DEVELOP AND/OR

STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT ALL DETAILS ARE DULY ASSIGNED, BILLED, COLLECTED AND PAID TO OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH CHIEF CHAMPAGNE AND HIS STAFF TO PLACE THE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE CITY COLLECTOR, CITY TREASURER AND CITY AUDITOR. THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE IS LOOKING INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF HAVING OUR INDEPENDENT AUDITING FIRM DO A RECONCILIATION OF ALL PAID POLICE DETAILS.

2. AS RECOMMENDED BY FOCUS CONSULTING, I WILL BE

SUBMITTING AN ORDINANCE REQUEST TO THE CITY COUNCIL
IN THE NEAR FUTURE CREATING A CIVILIAN POSITION IN THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT TITLED DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
AND PLANNING THIS PERSON WILL FACILITATE THE
DEPARTMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CITY AGENCIES,
THE MEDIA AS WELL AS STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS. THE
DIRECTOR WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE AN EXTENSIVE
BACKGROUND IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST THE
CHIEF IN DESIGNING SYSTEMS TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE
OF HIGH LEVELS OF INTEGRITY WITHIN THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER

RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH WILL BE OUTLINED IN THE JOB DESCRIPTION.

3. ALSO, AS RECOMMENDED BY FOCUS CONSULTING, I AM CURRENTLY REVIEWING AND DISCUSSING WITH STAFF AND CIVIL SERVICE THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY CHIEF. WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WITHIN WHAT PARAMETERS I AM AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SUCH AN APPOINTMENT.

WE WILL TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO ONCE AND FOR ALL ALLOW US TO FOCUS ON THE MANY POSITIVE THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THE DEPARTMENT, SUCH AS

THE MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN CRIME, EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY
POLICING AND THE OPENING OF PROBLEM SOLVING CENTERS
THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

A SHORT TIME AGO, \$200,000 WAS PUT INTO A CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS. I WANT TO
MAKE SURE THAT OUR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ARE OF A
HIGH QUALITY AND SOMETHING WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF. I
WILL BE SUBMITTING AN ADDITIONAL \$300,000 BRINGING THE
TOTAL TO \$500,000 FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS THIS YEAR. I WILL
ASK THE PARK COMMISSION, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND
RECREATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND

PURCHASING AGENT TO PUT TOGETHER A BID PACKAGE FOR CITY WIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMMENCING THIS SPRING.

A FEW YEARS AGO, WE BUILT A NEW WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, LAST YEAR IMPROVEMENTS WERE MADE TO OUR MAIN LIBRARY. MANY TIMES COMMUNITIES ARE JUDGED BY THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIBRARIES. I BELIEVE OUR LIBRARIES HAVE COME A LONG WAY OVER THE YEARS AND I WANT TO CONTINUE THE PROGRESS. THEREFORE, I AM RECOMMENDING \$100,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR SOUTH PEABODY BRANCH LIBRARY TO MAKE IT A MORE EFFECTIVE BRANCH TO SERVE THAT SECTION OF OUR COMMUNITY.

WE ARE ALSO REVIEWING VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR
ADDITIONAL PARKING FOR OUR MAIN LIBRARY. IT IS MY
INTENTION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN
THE NEAR FUTURE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL.

THIS SUMMER WE WILL BE MOVING INTO OUR NEW PUBLIC
SERVICES FACILITY. THE CONSOLIDATION OF A NUMBER OF
DEPARTMENTS WILL ALLOW US TO VACATE FIVE BUILDINGS. I
WILL ALSO BE RECOMMENDING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$300,000
TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST PHASE OF A PROGRAM TO UPDATE
OUR FLEET OF VEHICLES. THE CONSOLIDATION OF

DEPARTMENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLES WILL
ALLOW A MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS
MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION HAS SELECTED THE CITY OF
PEABODY AS ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 1998 KENNETH E.
PICKARD MEMORIAL INNOVATION AWARD. OUR PROJECT
SUBMISSION WAS THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. THIS IS THE
THIRD TIME PEABODY HAS WON THIS PRESTIGIOUS STATE WIDE
AWARD.

THIS YEAR WE WILL BE PURSUING MORE AGGRESSIVELY
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONALIZATION. THERE IS NO

REASON FOR DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS AND COSTS, PARTICULARLY FOR COMMUNITIES WITHIN CLOSE PROXIMITY OF EACH OTHER. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER AS A REGION.

THE TIME HAS COME TO END THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SOME OF THE MOBILE HOME PARKS. THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION HAVE TO BE OPENED, AND MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE MUST COMMENCE. WE HAVE HAD SUCCESS IN THE PAST NEGOTIATING MOBILE HOME COOPERATIVES. THIS CONCEPT ALLOWS OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND SELF-DETERMINATION. THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IS GATHERING IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON

THIS ISSUE, AND IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS EFFORT WILL
RESULT IN A POSITIVE RESOLUTION, SIMILAR TO THE
SUCSESSES OF THE PAST.

WITH THE START OF 1998, WE ARE PLANNING COMMUNITY
PROGRAMS WHICH WE INTEND TO EXPAND THIS YEAR. THESE
INCLUDE PROGRAMS SUCH AS VARIOUS FESTIVALS, PRIDE IN
PEABODY, CONCERTS, KIDS DAY, SPECIAL EVENTS AND MANY
OTHERS WHICH ARE ESSENTIAL TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF LIFE OF OUR CITIZENS AND BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER.

NEEDLESS TO SAY WE HAVE OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US-
FROM SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION TO GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION,

FROM TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS TO PARK IMPROVEMENTS, FROM
LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS,
AS WELL AS MANY OTHER ISSUES THAT WE WILL BE ADDRESSING.
THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK TO ACCOMPLISH.

I NEED YOUR HELP AND I BELIEVE IF WE WORK TOGETHER
AND FOCUS POSITIVE ATTENTION TO ALL THE ISSUES, WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS AS OUTLINED, AND ASSURE OUR
CITIZENS OF A BETTER CITY IN WHICH TO LIVE.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY AS A CITY AND PEABODY IS
HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY COMMUNITIES ACROSS THIS
COMMONWEALTH. PEOPLE TALK ABOUT PEABODY TODAY FOR

ALL THE RIGHT REASONS. IF WE ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS WE HAVE SET, WE WILL RAISE OUR CITY TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS.

IT IS CLEAR TO ME, IF WE ARE TRULY CONCERNED ABOUT DOING A BETTER JOB AND SERVING THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS, THEN THERE IS MORE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER, THAN DIVIDES US AS A GOVERNMENT.

BEFORE I CONCLUDE, I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THE CITIZENS OF PEABODY FOR ONCE AGAIN PLACING THEIR TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN ME AS MAYOR. IT IS A VERY SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME AND MY FAMILY TO HAVE BEEN AFFORDED THE HONOR OF BEING THE LONGEST SERVING MAYOR IN THE

HISTORY OF THIS CITY, AS WELL AS THE LONGEST SERVING
MAYOR CURRENTLY IN MASSACHUSETTS. FOR THIS I AM
ENORMOUSLY GRATEFUL AND ETERNALLY INDEBTED.

FROM TIME TO TIME LEADERSHIP CAN BE A LONELY PLACE,
PARTICULARLY WITH SOME OF THE CHANGING DYNAMICS AND
ATTITUDES TOWARD PUBLIC OFFICIALS, AND ALSO WHEN
DIFFICULT AND UNPOPULAR DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE.
HOWEVER, YOUR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT THIS PAST
NOVEMBER HAS INSPIRED AND ENERGIZED ME MORE THAN EVER
BEFORE TO STAY THE COURSE AND MEET THE CHALLENGES THAT
LIE AHEAD.

I STAND BEFORE YOU TONIGHT TO TELL YOU THAT I
CONTINUE TO COMMIT MYSELF TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF
LEADERSHIP THAT WILL CREATE A SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY INTO
THE 21ST CENTURY.

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY, I WANT TO WISH YOU ALL A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

